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BOOK REVIEWS

Die Hauptfragen des internationalen Privatrechts. F. Meili, Breslau, 1910. J. U. Kern's Verlag.

In this reprint of an article in the "*Zeitschrift für Völkerrecht und Bundesstaatsrecht*," originally an address before the Cologne Society to promote legal and political science, Professor Meili, of Zurich, has essayed to put into sixty pages a discussion of the great questions of International Private Law, as respects civil rights and remedies.

At the outset he calls attention to their growing importance in this new era of rapid and varied means of international intercourse. The Hague Conventions have made some things certain for some nations, but this requires every lawyer who deals with any of them to add one field more in determining the scope of his investigations, and to keep a still sharper lookout for the decisions of the courts.

The prevalent rule in Europe that the civil status and rights of foreigners residing in a country continue largely under the control of their own sovereign, Dr. Meili thinks, calls for limitations where they constitute a considerable part of the population. Germany may afford to give its general adhesion to the doctrine, when out of the millions in Berlin not 50,000 are aliens; but how is it in his own city with a third of its inhabitants foreigners, or in the city of Geneva, where over forty per cent are?

The Anglo-American doctrine as to contracts with foreign minors is stated, with too little reserve, as importing that the *lex loci contractus* governs in all cases, so that a Swiss, who is of age at twenty, could not be held on a contract made in an American State, where the age of majority was twenty-one. This is by no means to be admitted. The author is not particularly pleased with the effect so given this rule in respect to marriages. England, he says, has become the resort of all in Continental Europe who would not be permitted to marry at home.

Considerable space is justly given to the work of the four Hague Conferences for the promotion of private international

law, and confidence is expressed in its permanently affecting the course of international jurisprudence.

S. E. B.

The Statute and Case Law of the State of New Jersey Relating to Business Companies. By James B. Dill, Judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals of New Jersey. Edition of 1910. Sinnickson, Chew & Sons Company, Camden, N. J.

The author of this book has presented to us the law of New Jersey as it is, and so has compiled a work of direct practical value to practitioners. Containing, as it does, a complete statement of the act of 1896 relative to business companies, with all amendments and changes, and appending to each section of the statute the decisions in construction thereof, the work embodies reliably the corporation law of our greatest corporation State.

The plan of the book is to combine decisions directly with statute sections for convenient reference. Each section of the general corporation act is followed by concise and clear statements of the principles deduced by the courts from those statutory provisions. The cases cited are few and select. By cross-references it is easy to consult relevant sections and decisions. A further advantage is that the book contains not only the usual catalogue of cases and index of contents, but also a complete set of the forms required for the various legal applications, notices and certificates.

When we turn from an analysis of the mere method of composition and come to consider the general scope of this work of law, we are impressed by the simple, yet thorough treatment. We do not look in a reference work for a full discussion of theories. The book before us is a supplement to a well-versed lawyer rather than a text-book for the novice. Yet the expression in such narrow compass of so many principles tends to display rather than repress the spirit of fine judicial scholarship of Judge Dill.

While our corporation law continues to be expanded and reformed, it is essential that members of the bar be kept abreast of the changes. The best corporation text-books are destined to become early obsolete. Statutes are enlarged; decisions are re-